

CLASS INFORMATION SHEET

Sociology 1B Spring 2004
Problems of a Changing Society
MWF 9-10
Holt 313

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Office Hours: Mon 10-11
Tues 9:30-10:30
Wed 10-11
Thurs 9:30-10:30
Fri 10-11

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course focuses attention on the social problems which grow out of rapid social and cultural change. Among topics to be considered are: family disorganization, economic insecurity, juvenile delinquency, and adult criminality, physical and mental ill health, racial discrimination, international tensions, and education. (UC, CSU, CAN Soc 4)

PREREQUISITES

Reading level II.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course examines some of the most compelling social problems of contemporary American society. Diverse and important contributions of sociology to the understanding of complex social issues will be presented and discussed. Much of the material in this course will challenge popular notions about the nature and causes of contemporary social problems. This course will provide students with the analytical tools necessary to understand the complexity of contemporary social problems and will offer the opportunity to engage with these problems in a “real world” setting.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction to the Sociological Study of Social Problems

II. Macro Social Problems

- A. Wealth and Power
- B. Global Inequality
- C. Work and the Economy
- D. Threats to the Environment

III. Problems of Social Inequality

- A. Poverty
- B. Racism
- C. Sexism

- D. Heterosexism and Homophobia
- E. Ageism

IV. Institutional Problems

- A. National Security
- B. Health Care
- C. Sexual Assault
- D. Crime and Justice
- E. Drugs

TEXTBOOKS

D. Stanley Eitzen and Maxine Baca Zinn, Social Problems, 2003.

D. Stanley Eitzen and Craig S. Leedham, Solutions to Social Problems: Lessons from Other Societies, 2001.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE STUDENT

1. Students are responsible for attending all lectures, taking notes, and reading all assigned materials. The tests will cover material from readings, lectures, and other classroom activities. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes on the material that you missed.
2. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of all of the conditions and expectations of this course. This includes any syllabus or administrative changes that are announced in class. If you miss a class you assume the consequences of being uninformed about any changes.
3. This course “requires a minimum of three hours of work per week for each unit of credit, including class time.” (California State Education Code: Title V, Section 55022). Students who wish to do better than a passing grade will most likely need to spend more time.
4. This course is like a prize drawing: You must be present to win. Regular attendance and preparation is the key to success. You are strongly urged to have the material read and prepared by the date it is listed on the course schedule.
5. After the fourth week of classes, it is your responsibility to drop courses.

SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

It is expected that students in all Social Science Division classes will:

- be attentive to, and participate in, all instructional activities.
- be courteous to people with different perspectives and values.
- be respectful of all persons.
- be on time.
- not leave early without instructor permission.
- not disrupt class sessions by inappropriate behavior.
- not cheat on assignments or examinations.
- not engage in plagiarism.
- not eat, drink, or smoke in classrooms.
- make use of instructor office hours during designated times.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Midterm 2/9	30 points
Midterm 3/15	40 points
Term Paper Due 4/30	60 points
Final Exam 5/21	70 points
	200 points possible

EXAMS

Exams will contain both multiple choice and essay questions. Exam questions will be drawn from readings, lectures, discussions, videos, and class exercises. Exams are not specifically cumulative, although the course does build on material presented earlier in the term.

PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Although I would like to believe that you will remember all, or most, of what we discuss in this course, the reality is that most of you will have forgotten a good deal of the course material by the middle of June. The one skill you will take with you is your ability to write well. This ability will come in handy when you apply for jobs and for writing the personal statements when you are applying to four year colleges, graduate schools, and professional schools. No matter what career you find yourself in, writing will be important. In fact, with the growth of the Internet and e-mail, writing well is probably more important today than it was twenty or thirty years ago. Therefore...

Pick one of the three items on your own list and spend the rest of the semester trying to make it happen. I expect you to spend at least 20-25 hours on solving the problem you have chosen to work on. The paper for this course should explain:

1. What social change you were trying to encourage.
(5 points)
2. How you went about it: what you did, how you spent your time, and the amount of time spent. (10 points)
3. How other people (friends, family, people on site) reacted: what support you got, what resistance you encountered, and why. (15 points)
4. Your feelings while working for social change. (5 points)
5. What changes occurred as a result of your efforts: in society and in yourself.
(5 points)
6. Conclusion: based on your own experiences, how an individual can(not) affect the world around her/him.
(5 Points)

A one page paper proposal/outline is due on 2/23 and is worth 3 points.

You may work together with other students who share your goal, but each of you must write an individual paper (typed, double-spaced) five to ten pages in length.

You will also give a five minute oral presentation on your social change project during the last week in class. This presentation is worth five points.

The paper is worth 60 points. Forty-five points will be awarded for content, five points will be awarded for the oral presentation, three points will be awarded for the proposal, and seven points will be awarded for grammar, spelling, and punctuation (-1 point for every 2 errors). Papers are due in class on 4/30.

GRADES

Grades will be assigned on a curve based on the highest total of points earned by a student in the course:

- 90-100% of highest score = A
- 80-89% of highest score = B
- 70-79% of highest score = C
- 60-69% of highest score = D
- 0-59% of highest score = F

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Note: Assigned readings are given for each week. It is strongly suggested that you complete the readings by the first day listed on the syllabus. This will make you more prepared for the lectures and exercises in class, allow you to ask questions on material that is unclear, be better prepared for the exams, and get a higher grade in the course

Note: EBZ = Eitzen and Baca Zinn, Social Problems
 EL= Eitzen and Leedham, Solutions to Social Problems

1/12	Introductions	
1/14	EBZ 1 EL 1	The Sociological Approach to Social Problems U.S. Social Problems in Comparative Perspective
1/19	Holiday	
1/16, 21, 23	EBZ 2 EL 7 EL 9	Wealth and Power Toward an Apartheid Economy? For CEOs, a Minimum Wage in the Millions
1/26, 28, 30	EBZ 3	Global Inequality
2/2, 4, 6	EBZ 14 EL 19 EL 20	Work Jobs Versus Wages: The Phony Trade-Off Jobs for Life: Why Japan Won't Give Them Up
2/9	MIDTERM	MIDTERM MIDTERM
2/13, 16	Holidays	
2/11, 18, 20	EBZ 4 EL 27 EL 29	Threats to the Environment The Green Revolution in the Making Creating Markets for Recycling
2/23, 25, 27	Paper Proposal Due 2/23 !!! EBZ 7 EL 4 EL 5	Poverty Why the U.S. Antipoverty System Doesn't Work Very Well Why Canada Has Less Poverty
3/1	In Class Exercise--	No Readings

3/3, 5, 8	EBZ 8	Race and Inequality
3/10, 12	EBZ 9 EL 11	Gender Inequality (pages 257-278) Swedish Sojourn
3/15	MIDTERM	MIDTERM MIDTERM
3/17, 19	EBZ 10 EL 16	Sexual Orientation (pages 287-304) Same-Sex Spouses in Canada
3/22, 24	EBZ 5	The Aging Society (pages 124-142) EL 13A Gradual Goodbye
3/26, 3/29, 4/2	EBZ 18	National Security
3/31		Holiday
4/5-4/9		Spring Break
4/12, 14, 16		No Readings/Sexual Assault
4/19, 21, 23	EBZ 17 EL 21	Health and Health Care Delivery The Health Care System in Sweden
4/26, 28, 30	PAPERS DUE 4/30!!! EBZ 12 EL 30 EL 32	Crime and Justice Cultural Divide Over Crime and Punishment Deaths Reflect Gun Use in U.S.
5/3, 5, 7	EBZ 13 EL 33	Drugs The View from Platform Zero: How Holland Handles Its Drug Problem
5/10	EBZ 19	A Progressive Plan To Solve Society's Social Problems
5/12, 14, 17		Oral Presentations
5/21		FINAL 10-12